

The Black Box

THE GREAT MYSTERY STORY
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CHAPTER XXXV.

ERELY my own pen and ink," the professor expostulated. "If there is anything I detest in the world, it is violet ink. And your pen, too, is execrable. As there are to be the last words I shall leave to a sorrowing world, I should like to write them in my own fashion. Open the bag for yourself, if you will. You can pass me the things out."

Quest opened the bag, took out a pen and a small glass bottle of ink. He handed them to the professor, who started once more to write. Quest watched him for a moment and then turned away to French. The professor looked over his shoulder and suddenly bared his wrist. Lenora seized her employer by the arm.

"Look!" she cried. "What is he going to do?"

Quest swung round, but he was too late. The professor had dug the pen into his arm. He sat in his chair and laughed as they all hurried toward him. The professor snarled, seemed about to spring, then suddenly once more stretched out his hands to show that he was helpless and handed to Quest the paper upon which had been writing.

"You have nothing to fear from me," he exclaimed. "Here is my last message to you, Sanford Quest. Read it—read it aloud. Always remember that this was not your triumph, but mine."

Quest held up the paper. They all read. The professor's letters were carefully formed, his handwriting perfectly legible:

"You have been a clever opponent, Sanford Quest, but you are not to be cheated. The wisdom of the ages outwatches yours, outwatches it and triumphs."

Quest looked up quickly.

"What the devil does he mean?" he muttered.

The professor's arms shot suddenly above his head. Again that strange animal look convulsed his features. He burst into a loud, unnatural laugh. "Mean, you fool?" he cried, holding out his wrist, which was slowly turning black. "Poisoned! That is what it means!"

They all stared at him. Quest seized the ink bottle, revealed the false top and laid it aside with a little exclamation. Then, before they could realize it the end came. The professor lay, a crumpled-up heap, upon the floor. The last change of all had taken

SHOWN IN THE
LEADING
MOVING PICTURE
THEATRES
GREATER NEW YORK

By E. PHILLIPS
OPPENHEIM

place in his face. His arms were outstretched, his face deathly white, his lips faintly curved in the half amiable, half supercilious smile of the savant who sees beyond. Quest stooped over him.

"He is dead," he declared.

Quest swung round in his chair as French entered the room and held out his left hand.

"Glad to see you, French. Help yourself to a cigar."

"I don't know as I want to smoke this morning just at present, thank you," French replied.

Quest laid down his pen and looked up. French was fidgeting about with his hat in his hand. He was dressed more carefully than usual, but he was obviously ill at ease.

"Nothing wrong, eh?"

"No, there's nothing wrong," French admitted. "I just looked in."

Quest waited for a moment. Then he crossed his legs and assumed a patient attitude.

"Take a chair, French, did you look in for?" he asked.

"The fact of it is," French explained, "I should like a few words with Miss Laura."

"Why on earth couldn't you say so?" he observed. "Never knew you so bashful before, inspector. She's up in the laboratory. I'll ring for some one to show you the way."

Quest touched the bell and his new secretary entered almost at once.

"Take Inspector French up into the laboratory," Quest directed. "See you later, French."

"Yes—perhaps I hope so," the inspector replied nervously.

Quest watched him disappear with a puzzled smile. Then he sat down at his desk, drew a sheet of paper toward him and began to write:

My Dear Inspector:

I am taking this opportunity of letting you know that out of deference to the wishes of the woman I hope soon to marry, I am abandoning the hazardous and nerve-racking profession of criminology for a safer and happier career. You will have, therefore, to find help elsewhere in the future. With best wishes,

Yours truly,
SANFORD QUEST.

He left the sheet of paper upon the desk and, ringing the bell, sent for Lenora. She appeared in a few moments and came over to his side.

"What is it, Mr. Quest?" she asked.

He gave her the letter without remark. She read it through and, turning slowly around, looked at him anxiously.

"How's that seem to you?" he asked, reaching out his hand for a cigar.

"Very sensible, indeed," she replied.

"It's no sort of life, this, for a married man," Quest declared. "You agree with me there, don't you, Lenora?"

"Yes!" she admitted, a little faintly. Quest lit his cigar deliberately. Then he enclosed the letter in an envelope and addressed it to Inspector French.

"You'd better deliver this to the inspector," he said, "in case he doesn't call round here on his way out."

He handed her the note. For a moment she looked at him, then she turned quickly away.

"He shall have it at once," she said in a low tone.

Quest watched her cross the room. She opened the door and passed out without a backward glance. Then he shrugged his shoulders, hesitated for a moment and followed her. He heard the door of her apartment on the next floor close, however, and made his way to the laboratory.

He entered the room softly and paused upon the threshold. His presence was altogether unobserved by the two people who were standing at the other end of the apartment.

"I say, Miss Laura," the inspector was saying, "this has got to come some time or other. Why don't you make up your mind to do it? I'm no great hand at love-making, but I'm the right sort of man for you and I think you know it."

"This," Quest murmured to himself, "is where Laura boxes the inspector's ears!"

Nothing of the sort happened, however. There was a queer, a mysterious change in Laura's expression. She was looking down at the floor. Suddenly her face was hidden in her hands. The inspector threw his arms around her.

"Say, that's all the answer I want," he declared.

Quest stole softly away. As he regained the door of his study Lenora, dressed for the street, hurried out. She tried to pass him, but he laid his hand upon her shoulder.

"I was just going round to Mr. French's office," she explained.

"That's all right," Quest replied. "The inspector's here. You can leave the note upon the table. Hi, Perkins," he called out to his secretary in the next room, "get my hat and come back a moment, Lenora."

She turned into the room a little unwillingly and leaned against the table. Quest stood by her side.

"Take a chair, French, did you look in for?" he asked.

"The fact of it is," French explained, "I should like a few words with Miss Laura."

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"Very sensible, indeed," she replied.

he whispered, smiling down at her. "I think so," she admitted, with a little sigh of content.

(The End.)

THEIR NEW PARENTS WILL MAKE LIFE HAPPY FOR 3

Mrs. Whitbeck, Mrs. De Sales and Frank M. Lopez Adopted Children Last Week.

Through adoption decrees signed last week by Surrogate Cochran three waifs will get good homes and ultimately will inherit shares of fortune.

Mrs. Katherine T. Whitbeck of No. 801 West One Hundred and Thirtieth Street, widow of Caleb Van M. Whitbeck, who before his death March 7, 1914, was proprietor of the Hackensack, N. J., Evening Record, adopted Victoria, three years old. The child had been deserted by her mother after the latter had been deserted by her husband.

Mrs. Regina De Sales of No. 134 West Eighty-second Street has adopted Charles M. Langbauer, the fourteen-year-old son of Mrs. Anna Langbauer, a maid in the De Sales home for twelve years.

Mrs. De Sales told the Surrogate the boy and his mother had been abandoned by the father when the lad was two years old.

Frank M. Lopez, connected with the firm of Adolph Lewinson & Sons, who lives at No. 314 West 2nd Avenue, adopted Marjory Adams, the daughter of Percy E. Adams. The mother died in Paris Nov. 13 last.

"Bottle, if you're non-refillable, how in de heckens did they fill you up de first time?"

Carstairs Rye
No. 1785.

BE sure you get Carstairs Rye in the non-refillable bottle—a good bottle to keep good whiskey good.

Carstairs Rye is the oldest, the purest, the finest whiskey in America. Skillfully blended and aged in wood. Call for Carstairs at your club or hotel—keep it in your home.

STEWART DISTILLING CO.
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"Child Welfare Sunday" June 20.

The State Health Department has asked every clergyman in the Commonwealth to observe June 20 as "Child Welfare Sunday" and to direct the attention of the congregation to the proper care of children, especially babies, and to the facilities which exist in their various localities in the way of infant welfare stations, visiting nurses and other means by which mothers may be instructed on these subjects.

THEATRES.

Winter Garden 4th & 5th Sts. 8th & 9th Sts. 10th & 11th Sts. 12th & 13th Sts. 14th & 15th Sts. 16th & 17th Sts. 18th & 19th Sts. 20th & 21st Sts. 22nd & 23rd Sts. 24th & 25th Sts. 26th & 27th Sts. 28th & 29th Sts. 30th & 31st Sts. 32nd & 33rd Sts. 34th & 35th Sts. 36th & 37th Sts. 38th & 39th Sts. 40th & 41st Sts. 42nd & 43rd Sts. 44th & 45th Sts. 46th & 47th Sts. 48th & 49th Sts. 50th & 51st Sts. 52nd & 53rd Sts. 54th & 55th Sts. 56th & 57th Sts. 58th & 59th Sts. 60th & 61st Sts. 62nd & 63rd Sts. 64th & 65th Sts. 66th & 67th Sts. 68th & 69th Sts. 70th & 71st Sts. 72nd & 73rd Sts. 74th & 75th Sts. 76th & 77th Sts. 78th & 79th Sts. 80th & 81st Sts. 82nd & 83rd Sts. 84th & 85th Sts. 86th & 87th Sts. 88th & 89th Sts. 90th & 91st Sts. 92nd & 93rd Sts. 94th & 95th Sts. 96th & 97th Sts. 98th & 99th Sts. 100th & 101st Sts. 102nd & 103rd Sts. 104th & 105th Sts. 106th & 107th Sts. 108th & 109th Sts. 110th & 111th Sts. 112th & 113th Sts. 114th & 115th Sts. 116th & 117th Sts. 118th & 119th Sts. 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